

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A child's handrail assembly, comprising:

an elongated post having a first buckle-receiving opening at a first end thereof and a second buckle receiving opening at the opposite, second end thereof;

a resilient pawl mounted in each of said buckle-receiving openings and biased toward one side of their respective buckle-receiving openings and a strap-locking position, but movable against the bias of the pawl toward an opposite side of the buckle-receiving opening and a strap-release position, the pawl having a tooth thereon;

a first strap having a first end attached to the first end of the post, and a free end receivable in the first buckle-receiving opening, the first strap having a series of teeth engageable with the pawl of the first buckle-receiving opening to define a first strap opening suitable for engaging a first handrail;

a second strap having a first end attached to the second end of the post, and a free end receivable in the second buckle-receiving opening, the second strap having a series of teeth engageable with the pawl of the second buckle-receiving opening to define a second strap opening suitable for engaging a second handrail in a position parallel to the first handrail position and separated according to the length of the post;

a handrail received in the second strap opening such that by pulling the free end of the second strap, the second strap tightly engages the circumference of the handrail.

Claim 2 (original) A child's handrail assembly as defined in claim 1, including a tab carried on one end of the pawl and extending beyond the buckle-receiving opening of the pawl for moving the pawl toward said strap-release position.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A child's handrail assembly as defined in claim 1, including a second rail having one end thereof disposed adjacent an end of the first mentioned rail and a coupling for connecting one end of the first rail to an end of the second rail.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A child's handrail assembly ~~as defined in claim 1, including, comprising:~~

an elongated post having a first buckle-receiving opening at a first end thereof and a second buckle receiving opening at the opposite, second end thereof;

a resilient pawl mounted in each of said buckle-receiving openings and biased toward one side of their respective buckle-receiving openings and a strap-locking position, but movable against the bias of the panel toward an opposite side of the buckle-receiving opening and a strap-release position, the pawl having a tooth thereon;

a first strap having a first end attached to the first end of the post, and a free end receivable in the first buckle-receiving opening, the first strap having a

series of teeth engageable with the pawl of the first buckle-receiving opening to define a first strap opening suitable for engaging a first handrail;

a second strap having a first end attached to the second end of the post, and a free end receivable in the second buckle-receiving opening, the second strap having a series of teeth engageable with the pawl of the second buckle-receiving opening to define a second strap opening suitable for engaging a second handrail in a position parallel to the first handrail position and separated according to the length of the post;

a handrail received in the second strap opening such that by pulling the free end of the second strap, the second strap tightly engages the circumference of the handrail; and

an elongated adjustable brace having one end connected to the post and an opposite end disposed to adjust to distance between the post and a wall on which an upper handrail is attached.

Claim 5 (original) A child's handrail assembly as defined in claim 1, including padding disposed between the second strap and the handrail to prevent the handrail from sliding with respect to the strap.

Claim 6 (currently amended) A child's handrail assembly as defined in claim 1, in which the teeth on each of said ~~strap~~ straps are disposed on the opposite side of the strap with respect to the opening defined by the strap when the free end is connected to the post.

Claim 7 (original) A child's handrail assembly as defined in claim 1, in which one end of each strap is attached to the post closely adjacent its' respective buckle-receiving opening.

Claim 8 (original) A child's handrail assembly as defined in claim 1, including a cap mounted on each end of the handrail.